SHRI LALIT SURI: Mr. Chairman, Sir. seeing the importance of connectivity between New Delhi and Hanoi, this will be one of the greatest links in South-East Asia comparable to the Trans-Siberian Railway and the European rail network. This will boost the economy by way of easy accessibility for goods to be transported as well as tourism. I would like to ask of the hon. Minister: Is the Government appointing a joint working and a specialised agency to study and take advantage of the successful network of the Trans-Siberian railway and European rail for the successful implementation of this linkage?

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: Sir, I should like to emphasise that the proposal is at a very preliminary stage. The MGC Ministers have agreed that it would be a good idea to explore the feasibility of such a link. India has offered to depute a team to make a preliminary study. But the terms of reference as well as the agency for undertaking this study remain still to be identified.

SHRI LALIT SURI: Sir, my second supplementary is this. Which countries are participating in this project and will the Government find any difficulty to include Bangladesh in this project so as to make it viable by a reduction of a few hundreds of kilometres in route as compared to the North-Eastern route which will be long and has a difficult terrain?

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: Sir, the MGC countries comprise Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and India. So as far as Bangladesh is concerned, because of its geographical position, it has an important role in this matter. However, it has not been responsive to India's long-standing requests of transit facilities to strengthen the transport linkages between the North-Eastern Region and the rest of India. I hope, some day, wisdom will dawn.

Settlement of labour disputes through teleconferencing

*264. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that an IT company is developing a software for settlement of labour disputes in Delhi through teleconferencing; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any all India level study has been made to find out the average time taken to settle labour disputes and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) A settlement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Govt. of NCT of Delhi have informed that they are not aware of any IT company developing a software for teleconferencing to settle labour disputes in Delhi.

(b) According to a study sponsored by the Ministry of Labour assigned to Sri Ram Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources, Delhi, It has been observed that the average time taken for settlement of disputes through conciliation is 3 to 6 months.

श्री विजय जे॰ दर्डा: सभापति जी, मेरे प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहा गया है कि लेबर डिस्प्यूट्स का तीन और छह महीने में निस्तारण हो जाता है। मैं आपके माध्यम से यह जानना चाहता हूं पिछले वर्ष दिसम्बर, 2002 तक स्टेटवाइज और यूनियन टेरेटरीवाइज कितने लेबर डिस्प्यूट्स पेंडिंग हैं?

श्री साहिब सिंह वर्मा: माननीय सभापति जी, अगर मैं स्टेटवाइज बताऊं तो 2001 में दिल्ली में 69 मामले निबटाए गए, 2002 में 51 मामले निबटाए गए, चण्डीगढ़ में 2002 में 60 मामले निबटाए गए। चण्डीगढ़ में अप्रैल 2002 तक 60 मामले और अप्रैल से दिसम्बर तक 34 मामले, कानपुर में 2002 तक 41 मामले, हैदराबाद में 2002 तक 05 निबटाए गए सभापति जी,मेरे पास इसका पूरा विवरण है अगर माननीय सदस्य चाहें तो मैं उन्हें भेज दूंगा।

श्री सभापति: मंत्री जी, आप माननीय सदस्य के पास भिजवा दीजिए।

श्री साहिब सिंह वर्मा: मैं भिजवा दूंगा।

श्री विजय जे॰ दर्डा: सभापति जी, मैंने प्रश्न में पूछा था कि 2002 तक राज्य और यूनियन टेरेटरीवाइज टोटल कितने डिस्प्यूटस हैं और 2002 तक कितने निबटाए गए हैं?

श्री साहिब सिंह वर्मा: सभापति जी, प्रश्न में यह पूछा गया है क्या कोई ऐसी स्टडी करवाई गई है, मैंने माननीय सदस्य को इस बारे में जानकारी दी है कि हमने श्रीराम सेंटर फार इंडस्ट्रियल रिलेशनस एण्ड ह्यूमन रिसोर्सेज के द्वारा स्टडी करवाई है जिसमें उन्होंने बताया है कि विवादों के निस्तारण में औसतन तीन से छह माह का समय लगता है। आपने प्रश्न यह किया था कि कितने दिन कराया गया, कितना समय लगता है अगर आपको इसका विवरण चाहिए तो मेरे पास स्टेटवाइज पूरी फिगर्स हैं। आप चाहें तो मैं इन्हें कुछ फिगर्स दे सकता हूं।

श्री सभापति: इन्हें दे दीजिए।

श्री साहिब सिंह वर्मा: मैं दे दूंगा।

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, the Minister has said that this Government is not aware of any I.T. company in the NCT of Delhi developing a software for interaction through teleconferencing. I wish to

bring to the notice of the Government that a software interacting with hundreds of officers throughout the State has already been develped, and it is in vogue in my State for the past one-and-a-half to two years. If the Government of India can depute anybody there, they can study the software which is available in Andhra Pradesh. I just wanted to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister.

श्री साहिब सिंह वर्मा : सभापति जी, इसमें दिल्ली के बारे में पूछा था, मैं बता दूं कि दिल्ली में ऐसा कुछ नहीं है। हैदराबाद के बारे में जानकारी हम ले लेंगे कि किस तरह से उपयोग कर सकते हैं ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Not only teleconferecing, even video conferencing is done.

SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA: We can look into that.

Closure of industrial establishment

*265. SHRI GAYA SINGH:†
SHIR V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of closure, lock-outs, lays-offs and retrenchments in the industrial establishment reported during the period 2001-02 and 2002-03 and the number of workers affected, State-wise; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) The number of closures, lock-outs, lay-offs and retrenchment in the industrial establishment during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 alongwith the number of workers affected, State-wise is given in Table I and II.(*See* below)

(b) The major reasons for closures, lay-offs and retrenchment have been financial stringency, lack of demand, shortage of raw material and shortage of power. The major causes for lock-outs have been indiscipline and violence; wages and allowances and personnel issues.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gaya Singh.